

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)1353/18-19  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/DEV

**Panel on Development**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 28 May 2019, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP (Deputy  
Chairman)  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

**Members attending** : Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

**Members absent** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon MA Fung-kuok, SBS, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

**Public officers attending** : **Agenda item IV**

Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Miss Joey LAM Kam-ping, JP  
Deputy Secretary (Works)1  
Development Bureau

Mr YAU Hau-yin  
Acting Principle Assistant Secretary (Works)1  
Development Bureau

Mr Rick KO Wai-ching  
Assistant Secretary (Works Policies 1)2  
Development Bureau

**Agenda item V**

Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Miss Joey LAM Kam-ping, JP  
Deputy Secretary (Works)1  
Development Bureau

Miss Janet WONG Chin-kiu  
Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management  
Section  
Development Bureau

Ms Florence KO Wan-yee  
Head of Tree Management Office  
Development Bureau

Dr Samuel LAM Kin-san  
Assistant Secretary (Tree Management)2  
Development Bureau

Ms TAN Mime  
Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape)2  
Development Bureau

**Agenda item VI**

Mr Victor CHAN Fuk-yiu  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)2  
Development Bureau

Mr Wallace TANG Wing-keung  
Assistant Secretary (WP2)4  
Development Bureau

Mr Michael LEUNG Chung-lap, JP  
Project Manager (East)  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr KAN Hon-shing  
Chief Engineer/E3  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

**Attendance by  
Invitation**

**: Agenda item IV**

Mr Alex LEUNG Wai-hung  
Director – Collaboration & Trade Testing  
Construction Industry Council

Mr CHU Yin-lin  
Assistant Director – Training (Acting)  
Hong Kong Institute of Construction

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Doris LO  
Chief Council Secretary (1)2

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Ada LAU  
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Mr Raymond CHOW  
Senior Council Secretary (1)10

Ms Christina SHIU  
Legislative Assistant (1)2

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Action

**I Confirmation of minutes**  
(LC Paper No. CB(1)1087/18-19 — Minutes of meeting on  
19 December 2018)

The minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2018 were confirmed.

**II Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

2. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the meeting on 30 April 2019.

**III Items for discussion at the next meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(01) — List of outstanding items  
for discussion  
LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(02) — List of follow-up actions)

3. Members agreed that the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 25 June 2019, at 2:30 pm would end at 5:00 pm to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) Work of the Urban Renewal Authority;
- (b) Development of Common Spatial Data Infrastructure and 3D Digital Map; and
- (c) PWP Item No. 43CG — Greening Master Plans for the New Territories.

*(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, an additional item "Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas Stage Two Public Engagement" was included for discussion at the above meeting, which would be extended to end at 5:30 pm. Members were informed of the changes on 14 June 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1178/18-19.)*

4. Mr CHU Hoi-dick pointed out that the Administration had recently released the "Technical Study on Transport Infrastructure at Kennedy Town for Connecting to East Lantau Metropolis — Report on Preliminary Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment (Final)", which he considered to be relevant to the proposed studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters. Mr CHU requested that the Panel be briefed on the said report. The Chairman directed that a relevant item be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel.

#### **IV Proposed enhancements for training of construction workers**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(03) — Administration's paper on proposed enhancements for training of construction workers

LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(04) — Paper on construction manpower in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) ("PS(W)") gave an overview of the past initiatives of the Administration to enhance the supply and training of construction manpower to meet the keen demand of the construction industry, and the proposed allocation of \$200 million under the 2019-2020 Budget for taking forward measures to enhance the training of construction workers. With

the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Deputy Secretary (Works)1, Development Bureau ("DS(W)1, DEVB") then briefed the Panel on the three enhancement measures to be supported under the said proposed allocation.

*(Post-meeting note: A soft copy of the powerpoint presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1120/18-19(01) by email on 28 May 2019.)*

6. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subjects.

#### Demand and supply of skilled workers in the construction industry

7. Mr Andrew WAN pointed out an incongruity that on the one hand, the overall construction expenditure in Hong Kong had in the past decade increased significantly and was projected to exceed \$300 billion per year in the coming five years according to the Construction Expenditure Forecast updated in February 2019, hence implying a continuous keen demand for local construction labour and even the need for importing workers; while on the other hand, there were criticisms that the Finance Committee ("FC") had been slow in approving funding proposals for public works projects resulting in underemployment and wage cut of some construction workers. Dr Fernando CHEUNG had similar observations. Mr WAN sought clarifications on the demand and supply situation of construction workers, including specifically the surplus/shortage by skill levels of workers and by specific trades, in order to understand whether the relevant manpower training objectives and strategy of the Administration had been mismatched and whether the proposed enhancement measures could effectively address the need of the construction industry.

8. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the basis on which the Construction Industry Council ("CIC") made its projection that there would be a shortage of 5 000 to 10 000 skilled workers in the next five years. Mr POON noted that the Hong Kong Institute of Construction ("HKIC") had been offering one-year full-time certificate or diploma programmes to recruit and train secondary school leavers to become semi-skilled workers, and he asked whether the Administration had studied or analyzed the percentage of secondary school leavers enrolling in these programmes.

9. PS(W) advised that as at 31 March 2019, about 40% of the skilled workers were aged 55 or above and most of them were aged 60 or above. Hence, the construction industry would face a wave of retirement of these skilled workers in the coming decade. The proposed measures aimed at boosting the supply of skilled workers for the trades with the most acute shortage of workers. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the projection about shortage of skilled workers took into account a host of factors. On the demand side, such factors included the estimated number of major public and private works projects in the coming years and the resultant manpower requirements for different trades at different stage of works. On the supply side, factors including the age distribution of the registered construction workers and their retirement age, natural wastage and the number of graduates from relevant training programmes of HKIC and Vocational Training Council would be considered.

10. Dr Fernando CHEUNG held the view that unstable wage level, occupational safety concern and the physically demanding nature of the job had deterred youngsters from joining the construction industry. Making reference to the findings of a latest survey conducted by the Construction Site Workers General Union, an affiliation to Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, Dr CHEUNG suggested that to maintain a stable supply of construction labour, the Administration should (a) set a standard wage level for individual trades; (b) strengthen the monitoring on main contractors and their subcontractors engaged in public works projects to ensure that the construction workers were paid according to the "average daily wages of workers engaged in public sector construction projects as reported by main contractors" when the main contractors submitted tender for the public works; (c) take forward public works projects successively to avoid projects competing for resources; and (d) give the workers the right of collective negotiation.

11. Mr Tony TSE expressed that structured on-the-job training, job stability, a clear career progression pathway, safe working environment and the use of advanced technologies and smart applications, etc. all had a role to play in facilitating the recruitment and retention of construction workers. Ms Alice MAK expressed similar views. Mr TSE enquired about the measures taken by the Administration in these aspects. Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed that apart from providing a clear career progression pathway, efforts to enhance construction workers' social and professional status were also pivotal to attracting the younger generation to join and stay in the industry.

12. PS(W) concurred with members' view that occupational safety was critical to the recruitment and retention of workers in the construction

industry. In fact, occupational safety had been an important subject in the training for construction workers. While occupational safety at construction sites had been greatly enhanced in the past decade or so, the Administration was never complacent about its work in that regard. With the adoption of Building Information Modelling ("BIM"), site personnel could have a more comprehensive grasp of site conditions, thereby enhancing work safety. In assessing tenders for public works projects, the Administration also took into account the safety performance of the contractors. PS(W) explained that demand for workers of different trades might fluctuate as a works project progressed. DEVB would implement major public works projects steadily to even out the demand and supply of construction workers.

13. Mr LAU Kwok-fan enquired about the impact of the use of innovative construction methods and adoption of advanced technologies in construction on the demand for and training needs of construction workers.

14. PS(W) advised that the Administration had taken initiatives to encourage wider adoption of innovation and technology in the construction industry, including establishment of the Construction Innovation and Technology Application Centre in 2017 and the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund in 2018. With effect from 2018, capital works projects exceeding \$30 million were required to use BIM from design to implementation. Adoption of Modular Integrated Construction, which replaced conventional site operations with off-site prefabrication, would enhance the safety and productivity of construction workers. HKIC would provide training in the application of advanced construction technologies and methods, which would help attract the recruitment of younger generation to join the industry and could alleviate manpower shortage arising from an ageing labour force.

15. Mr HO Kai-ming enquired whether the Administration had, while taking forward the proposed measures to provide training incentives for targeted trades in keen manpower demand, formulated a holistic manpower training strategy covering all trades in the construction industry. He worried that the proposed measures would incidentally result in a drop in the manpower supply for other trades not being covered, such as the electrical and mechanical ("E&M") trade, as workers might be attracted by the incentives provided to take the training and join the targeted trades.

16. PS(W) advised that as around 90 000 skilled workers would retire in a decade's time, the proposed measures and other measures implemented by the Administration in the past few years, which would increase the number of skilled workers by 8 000 to 9 000 every year, could help replenish the



wastage resulting from an ageing labour force. Given the distinctive differences in skills requirements and working environment, etc. of different trades, such as the E&M trade and the building and civil engineering trade, it was not very common for workers to switch to another trade. That said, the Administration and CIC would keep in view the manpower mobility among the various trades.

Training needs of construction workers

17. Mr Gary FAN was concerned about the professional quality of the construction industry given the many construction blunders in recent years. To ensure the quality of public works projects in Hong Kong, he considered that enhancing the work skills and promoting professional ethics of construction workers were equally important. Apart from the proposed measures to enhance skill training, Mr FAN asked if the Administration would make available additional resources for enhancing training on professional ethics of construction workers as well.

18. Assistant Director – Training (Acting), HKIC advised that professional ethics was a core topic in the curriculum of all full-time courses at HKIC, and trainees were taught the standard procedures to follow at construction sites as well as the importance of discharging their duties responsibly. HKIC would put more resources into promoting technologies that could enhance the quality assurance of construction works.

19. Ms Alice MAK opined that it was not fair to put the blame for the construction blunders on frontline construction workers. She and Mr HO Kai-ming was concerned that the filibustering at LegCo had unnecessarily delayed the implementation of public works projects, leading to underemployment of construction workers at times. Ms MAK considered that the Administration had not provided sufficient training to facilitate in-service workers to switch to other trades within the industry when the demand for services in their own trades dropped. In her opinion, the proposed measures should strengthen the multi-skill training for in-service workers. PS(W) advised that HKIC had been offering training courses to train up construction workers to become multi-skilled.

20. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired whether the Administration would increase the target numbers of workers to be benefited from the proposed measures in case the responses were better than the original training targets. PS(W) replied that the Administration would keep in view the responses and review whether to raise the targets as appropriate.

21. At about 3:19 pm, the Chairman directed that he would conclude the deliberation on this agenda item after all the members on the wait-to-speak list had finished speaking.

Submission of the funding proposal to the Finance Committee

22. Mr Andrew WAN and Ms Alice MAK respectively expressed that members belonging to the Democratic Party and Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions supported the proposal. Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Mr Tony TSE, Mr Gary FAN, Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr HO Kai-ming expressed their support to this funding proposal. The Chairman concluded that members having spoken on this agenda item unanimously supported the submission of the funding proposal to FC for its consideration.

**V Establishment of the Urban Forestry Support Fund**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(05) — Administration's paper on Urban Forestry Support Fund)

23. At the invitation of the Chairman, PS(W) gave introductory remarks on the policy objectives of the establishment of the \$200 million Urban Forestry Support Fund ("the Fund"). With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, DS(W)1, DEVB briefed the Panel on the four proposed initiatives to be implemented under the Fund, namely, a study sponsorship scheme, a trainee programme, international urban forestry conferences, and public education and promotion campaigns.

*(Post-meeting note: A soft copy of the powerpoint presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1120/18-19(02) by email on 28 May 2019.)*

24. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure of LegCo, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subjects.

Allocation of funding provisions under the Urban Forestry Support Fund

25. Mr Jeremy TAM enquired about the respective amounts of funding provisions to be allocated for implementing the four initiatives under the Fund, and queried why such information was not given in the discussion paper by the Administration to facilitate members' discussion.

26. Mr HO Kai-ming expressed the view that sufficient funding provisions should be allocated for taking forward the proposed study sponsorship scheme and the proposed trainee programme with a view to developing a quality workforce for the arboriculture and horticulture industry, and he suggested sponsoring frontline tree workers (climbing) to attend training programmes offered by organizations other than the higher education institutions.

27. Stressing the importance of enhancing public appreciation of landscape and trees and educating the public on proper tree care, the Chairman asked about the amount of resources to be made available under the Fund for school activities or programmes that could develop students' knowledge and interest in landscape and trees.

28. DS(W)1, DEVB advised that the initial thinking was to tentatively allocate about \$30 million, \$120 million, \$5 million and \$40 million under the Fund for launching the proposed study sponsorship scheme, the proposed trainee programme, international urban forestry conferences and public education and promotion campaigns respectively. Such tentative allocation was subject to changes as the Administration was still in the course of working out the relevant particulars with the industry stakeholders, such as the details of the proposed study sponsorship scheme, and the agreed salary levels and duration of training for each kind of qualifications under the proposed trainee programme, etc. It was therefore premature for the Administration to commit the proposed allocation in the discussion paper.

#### Initiatives under the Urban Forestry Support Fund

29. The Chairman asked whether the Administration had assessed the manpower needs of the industry and accordingly set training targets for the proposed study sponsorship scheme and the proposed trainee programme, taking into account the shortage of some 750 qualified tree management personnel in 2018 according to the projection in the study on the Human Resources and Competences Survey and Analysis of the Arboriculture, Horticulture and Landscape Management and Maintenance Industry ("the Study") conducted in 2015, and the manpower required to meet the needs for daily operations as well as at times of emergency in particular in the aftermath of super typhoons like Typhoon Mangkhut.

30. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the current training initiatives were designed with reference to the Study, which was conducted to assess the training and supply of manpower against market demand.

The Administration intended to conduct a manpower survey regularly, say every two to three years, with the forthcoming one in 2019, to continue to keep abreast of the latest situation as a basis for long-term manpower planning for the industry. She said that the manpower demand for daily operations was generally stable. In exceptional events such as Typhoon Mangkhut which led to extensive tree failures, the workforce was still able to cope with the peak workload within a reasonable timeframe.

*Study sponsorship scheme*

31. Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired whether the academic qualifications obtained by the graduates from the arboriculture and tree management programmes at Level 2 to 5 of the Qualifications Framework ("QF") (as set out in Annex A to the discussion paper) were recognized by local and/or overseas professional bodies on tree management work for meeting part or all of the requirements for the professional memberships they offered. Mr CHU also asked about the details of the provision of the sponsorship.

32. DS(W)1, DEVB advised that generally speaking, apart from recognized academic qualifications, specified years of professional working experience would be required for fulfilling the requirements for the professional memberships of various arboricultural bodies. The training providers should know the accreditation status of their programmes. As regards details of the proposed sponsorship programme, she said that the initial thinking was to provide study sponsorship at about 60% of programme fees for arboriculture and tree management courses and a higher level of 70% for tree work training given that shortage of tree workers is more serious than arborists.

*Trainee programme*

33. Mr Gary FAN enquired about the details of the proposed trainee programme, namely (a) the target number of trainees; (b) the number of on-the-job training places provided by the Administration and private sectors respectively; and (c) the salary levels of the trainees. Mr FAN expressed concern about the competitiveness of the salary in encouraging the trainees to join the industry and retaining them throughout the duration of the training, which would last one to three years.

34. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the Administration aimed at recruiting about 200 and 400 arborist and tree worker trainees respectively. Government tree management departments and established arboriculture, tree management and landscape companies would be invited to offer training places at an agreed salary level and with an undertaking to provide

structured training. Monthly training allowance would be provided to the trainees from the Fund. The arboriculture industry generally supported the programme. The Administration was still discussing with industry stakeholders on the appropriate salary levels to be paid to the trainees, taking into account the diverse work types in arboriculture, and the impact on non-participating companies, etc.

35. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed concern that the existing registration framework under the "designated workers for designated skills" requirement of the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 583) ("CWRO") did not match the development of arboriculture and horticulture industry that had become increasingly important in recent years. As arboriculture and horticulture were not among the designated trades regulated under CWRO, graduates of arboriculture or tree works programmes having received on-the-job training under the proposed trainee programme would possibly be regarded only as general workers at construction sites, hence also deterring young people from pursuing a career in the arboriculture and horticulture industry. As such, Mr LAU urged the Administration to address the above issue and consider updating CWRO to include the trades of arboriculture and horticulture under the registration framework, lest the effectiveness of the proposed trainee programme and the Fund would be halved.

36. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the Administration would commission CIC to administer the proposed trainee programme in view of its extensive experience in administering structured on-the-job training in collaboration with contractors for various trades in the construction industry and since many arboriculture and landscape contractors were also in the construction industry. The proposed trainee programme would be similar to the Construction Tradesman Collaborative Training Scheme implemented by CIC. The Administration was working with CIC on the implementation details. Further, the Administration was studying the introduction of a suitable registration framework for arboriculture and horticulture professionals, and would explore with CIC the feasibility of bringing the trade under CWRO in the long run. Meanwhile, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section ("GLTMS") under DEVB was assisting the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry Training Advisory Committee in drawing up a set of Specification of Competency Standards ("SCS") for the industry under QF, which would be completed in late 2019.

37. Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired about the scope of work to be carried out by the graduates during their on-the-job training. Mr CHU expressed concern about the monitoring by the Administration on the participating companies to ensure that the graduates would meet the minimum

experience requirement for obtaining the professional qualifications after training and not be exploited as cheap labour.

38. DS(W)1, DEVB said that CIC would assist GLTMS in implementing the proposed trainee programme in aspects of developing training plan, liaising with companies and trainees, monitoring training progress and checking payment records, etc. She assured members that the participating companies were required to provide structured training meeting stipulated requirements and no trainees would be exploited as cheap labour under the programme.

39. Mr Jeremy TAM said that there might be some retirees who were interested in tree conservation and caring work. Mr TAM suggested that the Administration might consider encouraging interested retirees with high education level to participate in the proposed trainee programme/the proposed study sponsorship scheme.

40. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the proposed trainee programme aimed at recruiting young people to join the arboriculture industry. The eligible age for the proposed study sponsorship scheme was 30 and below, and the proposed trainee programme might recruit people aged above 30. She said that retirees and senior citizens who were interested in tree management might pursue relevant programmes with the financial support from the Continuing Education Fund and participate in the promotion campaigns.

#### Handling of fallen trees

41. The Deputy Chairman noted that given the vast number of trees under the management of the Administration, the tree management departments subcontracted tree management works to private arboriculture contractors. However, the service standards of these contractors varied and the tree management departments could hardly monitor them efficiently. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that months after the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, many fallen trees awaiting clearance could still be seen throughout the New Territories. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the Administration's action plan in coordinating various government departments in clearing fallen trees as the typhoon season drew near.

42. DS(W)1, DEVB said that the public might call 1823 or the GLTMS to report fallen tree cases. She explained that after the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Administration finished clearing the fallen trees on major roads in the following week and those on the hiking tracks and parks

by end of 2018. Most of the remaining fallen trees in the New Territories were cleared by March 2019. Based on its experience in dealing with the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Administration would engage contractors to assist the works departments of DEVB in clearing up the fallen trees in the coming typhoon season.

Professional registration, tree legislation and development of the arboriculture and horticulture industry

43. Mr Tony TSE said that the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects ("HKILA") supported the Fund and the Administration's initiatives to strengthen the training for tree management personnel. Mr TSE pointed out that there was no established mechanism for regulating the practices of and handling complaints against tree management personnel and the professional standards of arborists varied, thus hindering the healthy development of the industry and the profession. Mr TSE suggested that the Administration might make reference to HKILA's Accredited Arborist Scheme, which assessed the practising arborists on different aspects, in establishing a registration framework for arborists and tree workers. Mr TSE also called on the Administration to liaise closely with HKILA which was currently putting in place an accreditation scheme for local academic programmes at QF level 3 or above. Mr HO Kai-ming enquired whether the Administration could set a timeframe for finalizing the details and implement a registration system for arborists in say, three years' time.

44. Mr Michael TIEN considered that merely drawing up SCS for the practitioners of arboriculture works and issuing guidelines for arboriculture works could not effectively attract aspired young people to join the industry. He urged the Administration to introduce legislation to regulate the inspection and management of trees by registered professionals so as to improve the career prospect and employment conditions for arborists and hence, increase the incentives for young people to join the industry. Mr TIEN also commented that the current frequency of inspecting trees of various levels of risk was insufficient, and the Administration should review and make improvements in this respect.

45. DS(W)1, DEVB replied that the Administration has been studying the introduction of a registration system for tree management personnel. PS(W) said that the Administration had an open stance towards legislating for the registration of arborists and tree workers and it would keep in view the development of the arboriculture industry.

46. Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed the view that a registration and certification regime for the tree management personnel and the enactment of a tree ordinance were equally significant to the development of the arboriculture industry. Mr CHU asked whether the Administration had a legislative timetable for a tree ordinance, which he considered could provide a regulatory framework for tree management works and align the practice of the contractors in the industry with the statutory requirements.

47. DS(W)1, DEVB replied that tree legislation was not a widely-adopted global practice in tree management. At present, the Administration's tree management contracts stipulated all the service requirements for the contractors to follow in managing the trees, including the requirement for qualified tree management personnel to carry out the works. These contract requirements could help the Administration take proper care of the trees in Hong Kong and the effectiveness in this aspect would be enhanced by a registration system for arborists.

48. Mr HO Kai-ming said the Hong Kong Landscape and Arboriculture Professionals General Union ("the Union") supported the instant proposal and the Union hoped the Administration would attach significance to the development of horticulture industry. Mr HO opined that, horticulture and arboriculture works complemented each other in providing a liveable environment for the public. To facilitate the development of the industry, the Administration might specify in the tender invitation documents the requirements for arboriculture works to be carried out by tree management personnel with qualification proofs. DS(W)1, DEVB noted Mr HO's concerns and suggestions.

49. At about 3:59 pm, the Chairman called on members who wished to speak on this agenda item to make their requests. The Chairman would conclude the discussion on this agenda item and deal with a proposed motion after those members who had requested to speak had spoken.

Motion proposed by a member

50. The Chairman advised that he had received a motion proposed by Mr Michael TIEN. The Chairman considered that the proposed motion was directly related to the agenda item under discussion and members agreed that the motion be proceeded with at the meeting. The Chairman ordered and the voting bell was rung for five minutes.



*Motion proposed by Mr Michael TIEN*

51. Mr Michael TIEN read out his proposed motion:

(Translation)

Given that there is not any unified local registration regime for arborists at present, Hong Kong has to rely on the arboriculture societies of other countries currently for certification of the qualifications of arborists, it is thus unfavourable to the development of the arboriculture and horticulture industry in Hong Kong and has endangered public safety. This Panel urges the Government to promulgate expeditiously a regulatory regime for the industry, and to implement a registration regime for arborists and horticulturists and introduce penalties for non-compliance within one year. This Panel recommends the implementation of the following measures through the introduction of the aforesaid registration regime:

- (1) inspecting trees regularly;
- (2) signing of documents as proofs by the relevant persons upon their inspection of trees; and
- (3) investigating the causes after the occurrence of tree collapse incidents; and if human negligence is substantiated, relevant persons or companies should be punished.

This Panel also urges the Government to consider introducing legislation and drawing up the relevant legislative timetable within three years to regulate the qualifications for the industry, so as to protect public safety.

52. The Chairman put the motion to vote. At members' request, the Chairman ordered a division. 12 members voted for, and no member voted against the motion. Four members abstained. The votes of individual members were as follows:

*For:*

Mr Kenneth LAU (Deputy Chairman)	Dr Priscilla LEUNG
Mr Michael TIEN	Dr Helena WONG
Mr Alvin YEUNG	Mr Andrew WAN
Mr Holden CHOW	Mr HUI Chi-fung
Mr LAU Kwok-fan	Mr Jeremy TAM
Mr Gary FAN	Mr Vincent CHENG
(12 members)	

*Against:*  
(0 member)

*Abstain:*

Mr Tommy CHEUNG  
Ms Alice MAK  
(4 members)

Mr Frankie YICK  
Mr HO Kai-ming

53. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

*(Post-meeting note: The wording of the motion passed was circulated to members on 29 May 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1122/18-19(01). The Administration's response to the motion was circulated to members on 20 June 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1194/18-19(01).)*

Submission of the funding proposal to the Finance Committee

54. Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Mr Gary FAN, the Deputy Chairman, Mr Tony TSE, Mr Jeremy TAM, Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Mr HO Kai-ming expressed that they supported this funding proposal. Mr TIEN said that he supported this funding proposal in principle. The Chairman expressed that members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported this funding proposal.

**VI PWP Item No. 702CL — Kai Tak development — remaining infrastructure works for developments at the former runway and south apron**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1086/18-19(06) — Administration's paper on PWP Item No. 702CL — Kai Tak development — remaining infrastructure works for developments at the former runway and south apron)

*[At 4:28 pm, the Deputy Chairman took the chair in the absence of the Chairman.]*

55. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)2, Development Bureau ("PAS(W)2/DEVB"), briefed members on the funding proposal for upgrading part of 702CL to Category

A, at an estimated cost of \$135.2 million in money-of-the-day prices, for the construction of infrastructure works essential for the continued development at the former south apron area of Kai Tak Development. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Chief Engineer/E3, Civil Engineering and Development Department, then briefed members on the project details.

*(Post-meeting note: A soft copy of the powerpoint presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1120/18-19(03) by email on 28 May 2019.)*

56. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure of LegCo, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subjects.

#### Alignment and capacity of the proposed Road L10 (Northern Section)

57. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the proposed Road L10 (Northern Section) would connect to Road L18 and Road L10 (Southern Section) so as to provide direct vehicular and pedestrian access to the New Acute Hospital ("NAH") and the Hong Kong Children's Hospital ("HKCH"). She also asked whether the vehicular and pedestrian access to the two hospitals would be at-grade or elevated, as well as whether at-grade pedestrian crossing facilities would be provided near the hospitals.

58. PAS(W)2/DEVB and Project Manager (East), Civil Engineering and Development Department ("PM(E)/CEDD"), advised that Road L10, comprising the proposed Northern Section and the Southern Section (of which the funding proposal had been approved by FC), would connect to Shing Cheong Road which was accessible to both NAH and HKCH. Vehicular and pedestrian access to the two hospitals would be at-grade, and at-grade pedestrian crossing facilities would be provided near the hospitals.

59. Mr Jeremy TAM asked whether the single two-lane Road L10 (Northern Section) had sufficient capacity to cope with the traffic volume generated by the commercial developments nearby. PAS(W)2/DEVB replied that the consultants engaged by the Civil Engineering and Development Department had reviewed the traffic capacity of Road L10 (Northern Section) and confirmed that the proposed Road L10 (Northern Section) could cope with the planned traffic flow nearby.

60. Mr Gary FAN noted that the proposed Road L10 would connect to the Central Kowloon Route ("CKR") under construction and the Trunk

Road T2 under planning, and he asked about the estimated traffic volume of Road L10 and the associated impact on CKR and Trunk Road T2, particularly during peak hours. He also sought details about the temporary traffic arrangements to be implemented during the construction of the proposed L10 (Northern Section) to minimize the traffic impact.

61. PM(E)/CEDD replied that Road L10 would provide a connection to CKR. The estimated design traffic flow of Road L10 (Northern Section) would be 445 and 335 passenger car units per hour during the morning and afternoon peak hours respectively, and it was anticipated that the capacity of the dual three-lane CKR should be able to cope with the incoming traffic flow. PM(E)/CEDD further advised that the additional traffic generated during the construction of the proposed L10 (Northern Section) would be limited, and the construction vehicles would be restricted from using Shing Cheong Road and Cheung Yip Street leading to HKCH at peak hours or take an alternative route bypassing the public roads fronting HKCH if necessary to minimize the traffic impact.

Project cost, design and timetable

62. Noting that the 370-metre single two-lane Road L10 (Northern Section) and associated works would cost about \$135.2 million, Mr Jeremy TAM enquired whether the estimated unit cost of this road was comparable to that of other single two-lane roads. PAS(W)2/DEVB replied that the cost of the proposed works was comparable to other single two-lane roads of similar nature.

63. At the request of Mr Gary FAN, PM(E)/CEDD undertook to provide supplementary information on the gist of the advice given by the Project Cost Management Office on the construction cost and design of the proposed project.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's supplementary information was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1157/18-19(01) on 10 June 2019.)*

64. Mr Holden CHOW asked whether the completion timetables of Road L10 (Northern Section), Road L18 and CKR would dovetail with each other, and about the traffic impact in case not.

65. PAS(W)2/DEVB and PM(E)/CEDD advised that Road L10 (Southern Section) and Road L18 both serving NAH and other planned developments would be completed by 2023, and Road L10 (Northern Section) would be completed in tandem with CKR, i.e. 2025. In all, the

Administration would strive to achieve timely completion of the infrastructure works to support the related developments in the area.

Concluding remarks

66. Mr Gary FAN and Mr Jeremy TAM indicated support for the proposal. Mr Holden CHOW stated that members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the proposal. The Deputy Chairman concluded that members in general supported the Administration's submission of the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration.

**VII Any other business**

67. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:48 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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